



Student Handbook

About Texas Center for Arts + Academics

Texas Center for Arts + Academics is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization dedicated to the development of young people through arts-based programs. Since 1946 we have inspired children through the arts with an academic worldview. We believe in providing a variety of avenues through which to celebrate and nurture the unique gifts and creative talents of our community. Our two public charter schools—Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts and Texas School of the Arts—and specialized conservatories, Texas Boys Choir, Texas Dance Conservatory, and Texas Art Conservatory, deliver high-quality education in a unique and proven way. In fact, our approach is perhaps best reflected in our name. This combination of arts and academics reflects our larger role: to help ensure a self-sustaining arts community.

To this end, students who choose to study with us agree to abide by all policies and procedures included in this handbook, and to follow the instruction of their individual teachers and leadership of the Conservatory. Whether a student has recreational or professional aspirations, the Conservatory is committed to providing a safe, inclusive environment in which students can develop their skills and discipline in the art form.

Regular attendance in classes is paramount to a student's continued success. A student's placement in class levels is dependent upon many factors, including his or her unique skills development and quality of work. Placement is at the discretion of the Conservatory Director in consultation with the student's instructors.

Instructional Terms

Texas Dance Conservatory

All classes run from the end of August through the beginning of June and follow the break schedule of a traditional school calendar. Additional workshops, master classes and summer programs will also be added to the schedule.

Texas Art Conservatory

All classes run in 8 week sessions. Two sessions will be held each Fall and each Spring. Additional workshops, master classes and summer programs will also be added to the schedule.

For all schedules, please consult the schedules on the Conservatory tab of www.ArtsAcademics.org

Dress Code

Texas Dance Conservatory

Hair and Jewelry

- Hair must be worn so that it is pulled back from the face. If it is long enough, it should be secured in a bun for all dance classes.
- Dangling earrings, necklaces, bracelets and rings are not permitted in class

Female

- Creative Movement – any solid colored leotard, pink tights, pink ballet shoes
- Ballet – leotard, pink or black tights, pink ballet shoes, ballet skirt (optional)
- Jazz – leotard, black or tan tights, black slip-on jazz shoes, form-fitting shorts (optional)
- Contemporary – leotard, black or tan convertible tights, bare feet, form-fitting shorts (optional)

Male

- Creative Movement – white t-shirt, black dance pants or tights, black ballet shoes
- Ballet – solid colored t-shirt, black tights, black ballet shoes
- Jazz – solid colored t-shirt, form fitting black pants or tights, black slip-on jazz shoes
- Contemporary – solid colored t-shirt, form fitting black pants or tights, bare feet

Texas Art Conservatory

- Closed toe shoes
- Appropriate, non-baggy clothing
- Hair secured back, for student safety
- Dangling earrings, necklaces, bracelets, and rings are not permitted in class, for student safety
- Artist smock or other type of covering is highly encouraged to protect clothing

Policies and Procedures

In an effort to provide high-quality experience for all, our Conservatories require each student and their families to abide by the student handbook. Those who do not follow the policies and procedures may become ineligible to participate in classes or performances, or may be asked to leave the Conservatory.

- Students are expected to demonstrate good behavior that is based upon mutual respect and professionalism towards fellow dancers, instructors and Conservatory leadership.
- Parents should drop off students at the beginning of classes and pick them up as soon as classes are dismissed. Waiting areas are reserved only for students preparing for their next classes.
- Dance Students should carry a dance bag at all times to hold shoes, attire and other needs.
- Art Students should carry an artists tool kit to hold all supplies and art work
- Texas Center for Arts + Academics is not responsible for lost items.
- Dress code is strictly enforced in all classes. No street shoes are allowed on dance studio floors.
- No chewing gum, snacks or cell phones in any class.
- The schedule of classes may change with Conservatory enrollment levels. As classes fill up, more sections and levels may be added.
- Students who arrive 15 minutes or later may not be permitted to participate in class.
- In the case of absence or late arrival, it is the responsibility of students/parents to notify the Conservatory in advance at 817-717-4544 or Sheyna.Ferraro@ArtsAcademics.org.
- The Conservatory Director must receive notification in writing if a student will no longer attend classes or will be gone for an extended period. Upon three absences without prior notification, a student will be unenrolled and a re-enrollment fee will be required to be reinstated.
- Snacks, food and drink are allowed only in student waiting areas.
- Conservatories observes the same holidays as Fort Worth ISD. In case of inclement weather, notification of cancellations/delays will be sent via email and posted on the Texas Center for Arts + Academics Facebook page
- Performance attire and costumes are expected to be well-maintained and worn as directed.

Showings/Observations/Performance Opportunities

Texas Dance Conservatory Parent Observation Week

During the last week of the fall semester, parents are invited to sit in and observe technique classes. This will allow them to see the skills their dancers have been mastering in each class.

Texas Dance Conservatory Annual Spring Recital

Each technique class will perform in the Conservatory's Annual Spring Recital. These performances provide students the opportunity to demonstrate skills they have mastered during the year, as well as work on their performance techniques. Although rehearsals for these dances will take place during regularly scheduled dance classes, they will not consume the entire class time. This will help to ensure that technical progress is still being made as students prepare for the recital.

Recital fees are included in June's tuition. Letters will be sent in January notifying parents of the amount due for recital costumes. Costume fees are due with February's tuition.

Texas Art Conservatory Exhibition

During the last class of each 8 week session, parents will be invited to attend an informal exhibition of their student's work at the end of the final class